

Message Text

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S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 1947

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA, CU, UR, MPOL
SUBJECT: LA REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 148740

1. AS IN VIEWING MANY WORLD PROBLEMS, THE MILITARY-DOMINATED GOU'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA IS SIMPLISTIC, REFLECTING NOT ONLY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO MUCH MISINFORMATION RE COMPLEX FORCES AT PLAY. THIS PERSPECTIVE IS FURTHER SKEWED BY A VIRULENT ANTI-COMMUNISM AND HATRED OF CUBA AND THE USSR. THE RESULT IS A GOU VIEW WHICH MAGNIFIES THE CUBAN AND SOVIET ROLE AND ATTRIBUTES GREAT SUCCESS TO THEM. THIS VIEW IS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN LOCAL MEDIA THROUGH GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED ARTICLES ACCOMPANIED BY MAPS SHOWING MOST OF AFRICA COLORED "RED", AND PORTRAYING AGGRESSIVE CUBAN/SOVIET IMPERIALISM OVERWHELMING A WEAK AND INDECISIVE U.S.

2. THE GOU VIEWS THE CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA AS CONSTITUTING A DIRECT THREAT TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S SOUTHERN FLANK AND, BY EXTENSION, TO THE ENTIRE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD. ITS PRESCRIPTION FOR DEALING WITH THE
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PROBLEM IS STRAIGHTFORWARD: THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY TO CONFRONT THE MARXIST FORCES IN AFRICA WHILE THE GOU AND ITS SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS SECURE THEIR SHORES AND CONTROL THE INTERNAL COMMUNIST MENACE; TO SUPPORT ITS ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIES, THE U.S. SHOULD ABANDON ITS UNJUSTIFIED CONCERN WITH THEIR INTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE ARMS, SPARE

PARTS, ETC., THEY NEED TO HELP COMBAT THIS IMMINENT THREAT.

3. THE GOU DOES NOT PERCEIVE A DIVISION AMONG L.A. COUNTRIES OVER THE CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE. RATHER, WHAT IT PERCEIVES IS A DIVISION BETWEEN AN ALERT, CONCERNED LATIN AMERICA, LED BY THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST THE MARXIST ENEMY AND A NAIVE UNITED STATES, ATTACKING ITS TRUE FRIENDS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, WHILE COMPLACENTLY TOLERATING CUBAN AND SOVIET AGGRESSION.

4. GIVEN THE FOREGOING, ACTIVE U.S. INTERVENTION IN AFRICA WOULD LIKELY BE WELCOMED BY THE GOU (POSSIBLY WITH AN I-TOLD-YOU-SO UNDERTONE) WHILE A CONTINUING ABSTENTION WOULD BE VIEWED AS A LAMENTABLE ABDICATION OF THE U.S.'S GREAT-POWER RESPONSIBILITIES.
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